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SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Will the Government make copies of the report available to the Members of the House immediately? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" It is not possible to do so immediately. The suggestion made by the hon. Member will be considered."

Taking over of the Punganur Estate by the Government.

* 6 Q.—SRI B. KRISHNAMURTHI RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the reason for not taking over the Punganur Estate in Chittoor district by the Government; and

(b) whether any representations were made to the Government by the ryots of the Punganur Estate, Chittoor district, requesting the Government to take over the estate, and if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (a) Punganur zamindari estate in the Chittoor district was notified under the Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Act, 1948, to be taken over by the Government on 7th September 1950. The estate has however not yet been taken over as the High Court has restrained the Government from taking possession of the estate, forests, accounts, registers or documents or from interfering with the collection of arrears of rent due to the landholder from the tenants.

" (b) No such representations have been received by the Government."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I wish to know from the Hon. Minister whether the matter is pending before a court? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Yes, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER :—" No supplementary questions shall be allowed as the matter is *sub judice*. I pass on to the next question."

Number of prisoners of various categories.

* 7 Q.—SRI Y. ADINARAYANA REDDI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state—

(a) how many prisoners there are in various jails in Madras State on account of prohibition offences at present; and

(b) how many detenus there are and how many politicals there are still in prisons in Madras State?

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAYAR :—" (a) Number of prisoners on account of Prohibition offences—5,094.

" (b) Detenus—2.

Politicals—Nil."

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SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" Sir, are the Government aware that many of the political prisoners are being treated as criminals, and to say that there are no political prisoners in this State is not correct? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Sir, such supplementary que-tions really, I may be permitted to say, are primary questions, which should be addressed to anothenc Minister."

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" Sir, the answer that has beene given to a question, which is a definite question, is not correctre Hence the supplementary question is put whether the Governmeno really think that there are no political prisoners at all when theor are some thousands of political prisoners in this State, especially the Chief Minister's own Tamilnad? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Again, Sir, it is a debate. I should like to submit through you to the hon. Member that I am not at all unwilling to answer such questions if put properly. But there is no good in getting a snap answer from one who is not in charge of that particular department and who is not conversant with the facts."

MR. SPEAKER :—" What the Hon. the Chief Minister means is that Prohibition is not in the portfolio of the Hon. Minister who answered the question. The answer to the supplementary question put by the hon. Member is to be given by some other Hon. Minister. A separate question may therefore be put."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Clause (b) of the question is a definite question. It asks how many detenus there are and how many politicals there are still in the prisons in the Madras State. The Hon. Minister was pleased to answer this question. It is not a snap question or a snap answer. I suppose, Sir, some more information will be vouchsafed to us."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" If the object is to get information, I suggest a way of getting it. But if the object is merely to discuss, I say it will not lead to anything. Even as it is, I can say that a crime is a crime whatever the motive may be. If a murder is committed by a political for a political purpose, it is murder, and the prisoner does not cease to be a criminal on account of his political motive."

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" May I know, Sir, why the Hon. Minister for Law took the responsibility of giving such an answer to this House, while the Hon. Minister for Prohibition himself might have answered that question, and we might have put supplementary questions to him? The Hon. Minister for Law need not have said in this House that there are no political prisoners in this State. This information will reach the public and they will think that there are no political prisoners in this Government of Rajaji? "

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THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Sir, so far as the answer is concerned, it is correct to say that there are no such prisoners as were referred to; but if the present supplementary question seeks to make a distinction and raise an iron wall between crime and political motive, I say it is a question which I should be able to answer if put to me separately."

Report of the Special Officer regarding the Amindivi Islands.

* 8 Q.—SRI B. VAIKUNTA BALIGA : Will the Hon. the Minister for Rural Welfare be pleased to state—

(a) whether a Special Officer was appointed to inspect the Amindivi Islands;

(b) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to publish the report, if any, submitted by him or place it on the table of the House;

(c) what action do the Government propose to take on the recommendations contained therein;

(d) whether the Government propose to transfer the Amindivi group of islands at present attached to South Kanara district to Malabar district for purposes of administration; and

(e) if so, whether the wishes of the people of the islands were ascertained in this behalf?

THE HON. SRI S. B. P. PATTABHI RAMA RAO :—" (a) Yes.

"(b) No. The report is being examined and it is too soon to say anything at this stage.

" (c) to (e) The Government have called for the remarks of the Board of Revenue on the various recommendations of the Special Inspecting Officer, and the Revenue Board is examining the report. It is premature to say anything in the matter just at present."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Sir, when was this report submitted to the Government? "

THE HON. SRI S. B. P. PATTABHI RAMA RAO :—" The report was submitted at the end of March, and it was sent to the Board of Revenue in April."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" Will the Government be pleased to publish the report at least for the use of the Members of this House? "

THE HON. SRI S. B. P. PATTABHI RAMA RAO :—" As I have said already, it is premature to say anything now before the report has been examined fully."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" How is it premature, Sir? "

THE HON. SRI S. B. P. PATTABHI RAMA RAO :—" The report is being examined. Only after the examination is complete, it may be published."